

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action dated September 21, 2004, reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 through 42 are pending, with Claims 1, 6, 13, 19, 24, 31, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, and 42 being independent.

In response to the election of species requirement set forth in the Official Action, Applicant provisionally elect Species 2 (Fig. 6) with traverse, and respectfully submits that at least Claims 6 through 12, 24 through 30, 38, and 40 are readable thereupon. However, the election of species requirement respectfully is traversed. Neither Applicant nor the Patent and Trademark Office should be put through the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. Further, the making of an election of species requirement is not mandatory in all instances. It is submitted that it would not be an undue burden on the Examiner to examine all of the pending claims in the present application. Accordingly, in the interests of prosecution and economy of time, for Applicant, the Office, and the public-at-large, reconsideration and withdrawal of the election of species requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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